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Dr. J. L. Wortman exhibited an almost entire skeleton of *Patriofelis,* recently acquired by the American Museum of Natural History, and discussed its probable relationships. From structural characters of limbs he regards this creodont as nearest the ancestral form of the seals. Its spreading digits appear to have been webbed, and its coprolites show that its food material included turtles.

Dr. A. A. Julien read a paper on a newly discovered fungus from the petrified forest near Cairo, Egypt. Its genus is probably *Peronosporites,* and owing to remarkably perfect preservation its life history is to be determined.

BASHFORD DEAN, *Rec. Sec.*

SCIENTIFIC NEWS.

P. J. Van Beneden.—Professor Van Beneden, whose name is associated with the history of zoology, died recently, at the age of eighty-five years. One of his many contributions in aid of scientific work was the establishment, at his own expense, of a maritime laboratory at Ostend, which has since served as a model for others. His work extended throughout Zoology from the Protozoa to the Mammalia. At the time of his death he was one of the faculty of the University of Louvain.

Arthur Milnes Marshall, Professor of Biology in Owen's College, Manchester, England, who was as mentioned in our last issue killed recently by an accident, was both an investigator and a teacher of much ability, and was the author of many valuable biological papers, and of a text-book of Embryology. He is remembered in the United States, which he visited in 1884, for his activity of both mind and body. His loss is greatly regretted. It is proposed now to erect a suitable memorial.

Paul Henri Fischer.—The Museum of Natural History of Paris has suffered a great loss in the person of Dr. Paul Henri Fischer, the well-known zoologist and paleontologist, who died on November 29, after a long and painful illness. Born at Paris, on July 7, 1835, he received his early classical and medical education at Bordeaux. He became *Tuterne des Hopitaux de Paris,* in 1859, and obtained his degree of Doctor of Medicine in 1863. The study of medicine did not prevent him from devoting himself also to that of the natural sciences;

for in 1861, he had entered as Demonstrator in the Laboratory of Paleontology of the Museum of Paris, under the direction of M. d'Archiac. His researches concerned above all the living and fossil Mollusca. Since 1886, he directed the *Journal de Conchyliologie,* in collaboration with M. Crosse. From the position of demonstrator he rose to be *aide-naturaliste* (assistant), and studied with great success the marine animals of the coast of France, their geographical and bathymetric distribution. He indicated the depths at which a large number of Foraminifera, Cœlenterata, Echinodermata, Mollusca, Bryozoa, etc., can be collected on the coasts of the west of France. In collaboration with the Marquis de Folen, he undertook the study of the animals dredged in the extremely interesting region of the Gulf of Gascogne to which the name " *Fosse du Cap Breton* " has been given. The two savants discovered a large number of form hitherto unknown, and many which recalled species only known in the fossil condition. With M. Delesse, he made researches on the submarine sediments of the French shores. He was elected member of the *Commission of Dredging,* and took part, from 1880 to 1883, on board the " *Travailleur* " and the " *Talisman* " in the celebrated expedition directed by Professor Milne-Edwards. In the course of these expeditions, he noted the enormous extension of a cold fauna characterised by boreal and Arctic species, and reaching as far as Senegal, where it lives beneath a superficial fauna with intertropical characters.

Among the writings of Fischer, which number not less than 300 titles, including books, pamphlets and memoirs, we may cite: *Paléontologie de l' Asie Mineure* (in collaboration with M. d'Archiac and M. deVerneuil); *Mollusques du Mexique et de l' Amérique centrale* (in collaboration with M. Crosse); *Species général et inconographie des coquilles vivantes; Animaux fossies du Mont Léberon* (in collaboration with M. Albert Gaudry and M. Tournouer); *Paléontologie de l'ile de Rhodes; Cétacés du Sud-ouest de la France*; *Catalogue et distribution géographique des Mollusques terrestres, fluviatiles et marins d' une partie de l' Indo-Chine; Sur les caractères de la faune conchyliologique terrestre et fluviatile récemment éteinte du Sahara; Sur la faune conchyliologique de l'ile d'Hainan (Chine);* numerous memoirs on the malacological fauna of Lord Howe Island (Pacific Ocean); of Cambodia, of the Caledonian Archipelago Islands, of the Bay of Suez, etc. In collaboration with M. E. L. Bouvier, he published papers on the anatomical peculiarities of certain groups of Molluscs. Finally he wrote a remarkable treatise on Conchology, which has become classical. In this manual, the author shows that the classification of Mollusks ought to be based not alone on the form of the shell, but primarily on anatomical characters.

Dr. Fischer was *Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur* since 1871; *Officier de l'Instruction Publique* since 1881. He had obtained several prizes at the Académie des Sciences de Paris, and had been President of the Zoological and Geological Societies of France. He possessed deep erudition, was a charming talker, and after having treated a subject belonging to the domain of natural science or of medicine, he was far from embarrassed if he had to discuss philosophy, literature or esthetics. The death of this savant who was as affable as he was modest, has been a cause for general regret and for deep mourning among his large circle of friends.—EDMOND BORDAGE.

Dr. Samuel Lockwood, of Freehold, New Jersey, Died in January, 1894, at an advanced age. Dr. Lockwood was a frequent contributor to the scientific journals, and was well-known as an enthusiastic observer. His animal biographies will always be read with pleasure. They are scattered through various periodicals, but the NATURALIST probably published the majority. Such were the History of the Mocking-bird in New Jersey; the Singing Mouse; The Pine Snake; The Coati, etc. Dr. Lockwood was, for many years, a clergyman at Keyport, N. J., and subsequently became superintendent of the public schools of Monmouth Co., N. J. His interest in education was as great as it was in scientific research. He saved many valuable specimens for scientific study, among which was the type of *Plesiosaurus lockwoodii* of the Cretaceous beds, and the bones of the huge Dinosaur, *Ornithotarsus immanis.*

Mr. Samuel N. Rhoads, of Haddonfield, New Jersey, announces that he has discovered a perfect copy (2 vols.) of the long lost "Second American Edition" of Guthrie's Geography, published in 1815. This edition is the one which contains the part on American Zoology, by the celebrated naturalist, George Ord, where, for the first time, binomial scientific names are imposed upon several species of American Mammals and Birds. The article on Zoology is Mr. Ord's private annotated copy, and is intact within the second volume. A reprint of this copy is now being prepared for publication by Mr. Rhoads, to be ready for distribution in February. The reprint will be an exact reproduction of the original, and will include also comments on the marginal annotations, which, there is no doubt, were made by Mr. Ord himself.

Science Prizes.—At the recent annual public meeting of the Academy of Sciences, Paris, M. de Lucaze-Duthiers in the chair, after some commemorative words on the deaths of Sir Richard Owen, Kummer, and DeCandolle, foreign associates, and those of Chambrelent, Admiral Paris and Charcot, members of the Academy, by the president, M. Bertrand, one of the secretaries announced the names of those to whom prizes had been awarded. It will be seen that American scientists were not forgotten.

In *Geometry,* the Prix Francoeur was awarded to M. G. Robin for mathematical physics, and the Prix Poncelet to M. G. Koenigs, for geometrical and mechanical work.

Mechanics. The extraordinary prize of 6,000 francs offered by the Department de la Marine for contrivances increasing the efficiency of the navy, was distributed among M. Bourdelles (for lighthouse illumination), M. Lephay (compass with luminous index), and M. de Fraysseix (system of optical pointing); the Prix Montyon, of 700 francs to M. Flamant (hydraulics) ; the Prix Plumey, of 2,500 francs, to M. Lebasteur (steam-engine appliances); the Prix Fournëyron, of 500 francs, to M. Brousset (fly-wheels).

Astronomy.—The Prix Lalande, of 540 francs, to M. Schulhof (comets); the Prix Valz of 460 francs, to N. Berberich (minor planets); the Prix Janssen, of a gold medal, to Mr. Samuel Langley (astronomical physics).

Physics.—The Prix La Case, of 10,000 Francs, to M. E. H. Amagat (gasses and liquids).

Statistics.—The Prix Montyon, of 500 francs, to Dr. Marvand (diseases of soldiers).

Chemistry.—The Prix Jecker, of 1,000 francs, to M. D: Forcrand and M. Griner in equal parts, with a special prize to M. Gautier; the Prix La Caze, of 10,000 francs, to M. Lemoine (phosphorous compounds).

Mineralogy and Geology.—The Grand Prix to M. Marcellin Boule (the central plateau of France); the Prix Bordin, of 3,000 francs, was distributed among MM. Bourgeois, Gorgen, Michel and Duboin for their researches in mineral synthesis; the Prix Delesse, of 1,400 francs, to M. Fayol (Commentry strata); the Prix Fontannes, of 2,000 francs, to M. R. Zeiller (paleontology).

Botany.—The Prix Desmazieres, of 1,600 francs, to M. C. Sauvagean (Algae); the Prix Montague to MM. Cardot (mosses) and Gaillard (Fungi).

Agriculture.—The Prix Morogues to M. Millardet (mildew).

Anatomy and Zoology.—The Prix Thore to M. Corbiere (Muscineæ)

Medicine and Surgery.—The Prix Montyon was distributed among M. M. Huchard (heart diseases), Delorme (army surgery), and Pinard and Varnier (pathological atlas); the Prix Barbier, 500 francs each to MM. Sanson (heredity) and Dr. Mauclaire (osteoarthritis; the Prix Breant, being the interest on the sum of 100,000 francs, offered for a cure for cholera, was distributed among MM. Netter and Thoinot (French cholera, 1892), and MM. Grimbert and Burlureaux (treatment of tuberculosis by creosote injections); the Prix Godard, of 1,000 francs, to Dr. Tourneux (physiological atlas); the Prix Serres, of 7,500 francs, to M. Pizon (blastogenesis), with small portions to MM. Sabatier (spermatogenesis) and Letulle (inflammation); the Prix Bellion, of 1,400 francs, to Dr. C. Chabrie (physiology of the the kidney) and Dr. Constan (fatigue); the Prix Mege to Dr. Hergott (history of obstetrics); the Prix Lallemand, of 1,800 francs, to M. Trolard (venous system).

Physiology.—The Prix Montyon, of 750 francs, to M. Lanlanie (respiration), and MM. Abelous and Langlois (renal capsules); the Prix la Caze, of 10,000 francs to M. d'Arsonval (physiological effects of electricity); the Prix Pourat to M. E. Meyer (renal secretion; the Prix Martin-Damourette, of 1,400 francs, to Dr. Gerand (albuminuria).

General Prizes.—The Arago Medal to Mr. Asaph Hall (satellite of Mars) and Mr. E. E. Barnard (Jupiter's first satellite); the Prix Montyon, for improvements in unhealthy industries, was divided between MM. Garros (porcelain manufacture) and Coquillon (fire damp meter); the Prix Tremont, of 1,100 francs, to M. Jules Morin for his useful hydrostatic and other inventions; the Prix Gegner, of 4,000 franc, to M. Serret; the Prix Petit d'Ormoz, of 10,000 francs, to M. Stieltjes (mathematics), and another of the same amount to M. Marcel Bertrand (physics of the globe); the Prix Tchihatchef, of 10,000 francs, to M. Gregoire Groum-Grschimailo (the Pamirs); the Prix Gaston Plante, of 3,000 francs, to M. Blondlot (electric interference); Mme. De Laplace's Prize, consisting of Laplace's works, to M. Bes de Berc, of the Ecole Nationale des Mines.

The sixth annual meeting of the Association of American Anatomists will take place Tuesday to Friday, May 29, to June 1, 1894, at Washington, D. C., the time and place of meeting of the Third Congress of American Physicians and Surgeons, of which this Association is a constituent part.

The Botanical Club of the American Association for the Advancement of Science at a meeting held Aug. 19, 1892, adopted these principles of Nomenclature: *Resolved:* That the Paris code of 1867 be adopted except where it conflicts with the following: I. The Law of Priority. Priority of publication is to be regarded as the fundamental principle of botanical nomenclature. II. Beginning of Botanical Nomenclature. The botanical Nomenclature of both genera and species is to begin with the publication of the first edition of Linnæus "Species Plantarum," in 1753. III. Stability of Specific Names. In the transfer of a species to a genus other than the one under which it was first published the original specific name is to be retained, unless it is identical with the generic name or with a specific name previously used in that genus. IV. Homonyms. The publication of a generic name or a binominal invalidates the use of the same name for any subquently published genus or species respectively. V. Publication of Genera. Publication of a genus consists only (1) in the distribution of a printed description of the genus named. (2) in the publication of the name of the genus and the citation of one or more previously published species as examples or types of the genus, with or without a diagnosis. VI. Publication of Species. Publication of a species consists only (1) in the distribution of a printed description of the species named, (2) in the publishing of a binominal, with reference to a previously published species as a type. VII. Similar Generic Names. Similar generic names are not to be rejected on account of slight differences, except in the spelling of the same word; for example *Apios* and *Apium* are to be retained, but of *Epidendrum* and *Epidendron, Asetrocarpus* and *Astrocarpus,* the later is to be rejected VIII. Citation of Authorities. In the case of a species which has been transferred from one genus to another the original author must always be cited in parenthesis, followed by the author of the new binominal. N. L. Britton, John M. Coulter, Henry H. Rusby, William A. Kellerman, Frederick V. Coville, Lucien M. Underwood, Lester F. Ward, *Committee.*

At the meeting of the New York Academy of Sciences to be held on March 5th prox., will be held a debate between the supporters of the Neodarwinian and Neolamarckian theories of organic evolution. Prof. E. S. Poulton, of the University of Oxford, England, will open for the former, and Prof. E. D. Cope, of Philadelphia, will reply for the latter. Profs. W. B. Scott, of Princeton, and E. B. Wilson of New York, will also speak.

Prof. W. P. Wilson has brought to Philadelphia twenty-four car loads of exhibits, mostly of natural objects, which were displayed at the Chicago Exposition.